

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 260855Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5974

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: CONCERN IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OVER INDIAN MUSLIMS

1. MINSTATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED TOLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) JULY 25 HE WOULD CONVEY TO GOI CONCERN FELT BY NA OVER INDIAN MUSLIMS' LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DURING MAY 5 DELHI RIOTS. ISSUE RAISED IN NA BY VOCAL OPPOSITION MEMBER, GHFOOR AHMAD, JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI, WHO DEMANDED DEBATE ON ALLEGED KILLING OF MUSLIMS BY JAN SANGH IN DELHI, DESCRIBED RIOTS AS "WORST SINCE INDEPENDENCE", AND DEMANDED GOP TAKE UP MATTER WITH INDIA UNDER SIMLA AGREEMENT.

2. AZIZ AHMED DISAGREED WITH CHARACTERIZATION OF RIOTS AS "WORST SINCE INDEPENDENCE", CLAIMED SEVERAL MORE EXTENSIVE ONES HAD EARLIER OCCURRED. HE ATTEMPTED DEFUSE ISSUE BY RECALLING THAT INDIAN HOME MINISTRY HAD PROMISED HIGH LEVEL PROBE INTO CAUSES. IN ADDITION, INDIA COULD ARGUE, AZIZ SAID, THAT UNDER SIMLA ACCORD RAISING SUCH AN ISSUE WAS CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF AGREEMENT.

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3. AHMED CONTINUED THAT UNDER LIAQUAT-NEHRU PACT PAKISTAN FORMERLY RAISED SUCH ISSUED WITH GOI. HOWEVER, THESE PRIMARILY CONCERNED EAST PAKISTAN AND ADJOINING INDIAN PROVINCES; WITH EAST PAKISTAN NOW GONE IT NOW DOUBTFUL ISSUED COULD BE TAKEN UP UNDER PACT. "NO USEFUL PURPOSE", AHMED SAID, "COULD BE SERVED BY LODGING A PROTEST WITH NEW DELHI" BUT HE WOULD CONVEY THE FEELINGS OF THE HOUSE TO THE GOI.

4. COMMENT: RELATIVELY LOW-KEYED MANNER IN WHICH AZIZ AHMED HANDLED OPPOSITION MOTION AND AVOIDANCE OF TEMPTATION TO RESORT TO CUSTOMARY ANTI-INDIAN INVECTIVE INDICATE PAKS ARE CONTINUING RESTRAINED LINE THEY HAVE RECENTLY ADOPTED TOWARD INDIA.
LUPPI

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